

STATINTL

AFL-CIO USES INSTITUTE TO OVERTHROW REGIMES

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(Radio Peace and Progress anonymous commentary: "A Center for the Preparation of Strikebreakers in Latin America")

(Text) In Washington on the fourth floor of the marble palace of AFL-CIO, which incidentally is situated in front of the White House, is the office of Jay Lovestone, leader of the international section of the AFL-CIO. A renegade and an obdurate enemy of communism, he heads a group of people who, following the orders of AFL-CIO President George Meany, are fighting all over the world against communist influence in the trade union movement.

Close to the marble palace is situated a building which houses the beloved creation of Meany and Lovestone--the American Institute for Development of Free Trade Unions. The resolution setting up the institute was approved in 1962 and its first trainees were enrolled in July of the same year. But what is this insitute? What has it been set up for? Getting acquainted with its activities, we come across a singular characteristic.

Among its leaders there are not only trade unionist, but also representatives of those same corporations against which many Latin American trade unions are fighting. Thus, the president of the institute is George Meany, and the president of the so-called institute's council is Peter Gray of U.R. Grays & Co. In Latin America this Yankee monopoly owns shipping companies, sugar plantations, sugar refineries, textile mills, and other enterprises. The vice president of the institute's council is (name indistinct), protege of the oil magnate Nelson Rockefeller. Among the directors are Charles (?Brinkerhoe), president of Anaconda, Juan Trippe, president of PAA, William Hickey of the United Corporation, and others. The fact that such persons are on the board of the institute shows that its objectives are very far from a genuine trade union struggle, a struggle for workers rights to which the trade unionists trained at the institute should devote themselves.

In planning course programs and in selection of trainees, anticommunism is the criterion. Apart from studies purely in trade union work, classes are given on the U.S. Government system, on questions of American trade union policies, on the question of anticommunist struggle in Latin America, and other topics. Analyzing the syllabus of the institute, even the American magazine NATION expressed doubts as to how Latin American activists armed with such knowledge would be able to carry out their revolution against the oligarchy.

Obviously, communist trade union leaders cannot joint this school. According to Serafino Romualdi, a leading figure in the institute, all those who consider themselves to the left vis-a-vis the ruling party in Venezuela, the Democratic Action Party, or the APRA in Peru, will also not be admitted to the institute. The anticommunism of the leaders of these two parties, as is known, is not a secret to anyone. The fervor of the institute's directors reached such a point that at the beginning, representatives of Christian trade unions were not admitted.

The institute operates 14 training centers in Latin America where more than 20,000 people have been trained, and 317 have taken their courses in Washington. In the fight against the progressive labor movement, the institute's graduates use any method to achieve their chief objective, which has been placed before them by the

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reactionary leadership of the AFL-CIO headed by Meany. The Meany-Lovestone group, as the American newspapers admit, operating at international level, is no more than a network of agents of the U.S. Government and of the CIA. In Latin America this group operates through the American Institute for Development of Free Trade Unions set up and financed by the AFL-CIO. However, it is enough to quote a few examples to show what interests they represent.

In Brazil it did quite a lot for the overthrow of the Goulart government. After the April coup last year, William (?Dougherty) Jr., head of the department of special projects at the institute, was saying in a triumphant tone that many trade union leaders, several of them trained at the institute, had actively participated in overthrowing Goulart.

This same role of betrayal and (?division) has been played by the institute in the Dominican Republic. Here the AFL-CIO and the institute were operating through a trade union called CONATRAL. A week before President Juan Bosch was overthrown, CONATRAL published a statement in which the population was hypocritically exhorted to rely on the armed forces for defense against communism. In other words, it was openly exhorting the overthrow of the government and establishment of a military dictatorship. While the U.S. Ambassador in the Dominican Republic gave the impression that he supported Juan Bosch, the U.S. labor attache, (?Summerfort), accused Bosch of being soft on communism and directed the antigovernment actions of CONATRAL. A year after the overthrow of Juan Bosch, George Meany wrote a personal letter to (?Summerfort) highly praising his role in the Dominican democratic trade union movement.

These hypocritical words clearly show that the AFL-CIO, through its agents in Latin American countries, uses all its efforts to overthrow those governments which do not suit U.S. monopolist circles. It is not surprising that the close relationship of the institute with the AFL-CIO, the U.S. Government, with the State Department, with the CIA, and finally with U.S. big business, should have discredited it before the eyes of all Latin Americans. All honest Latin Americans refuse to have anything to do with this institute, and will intensify their struggle against its harmful influence on the labor movement of Latin American countries.

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